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CONTEMPORARY RUSSIAN CINEMA

KIND INTERN. CATALOGUE 1992



FREEZE -- DIE -- COME TO LIFE

1989 105 minutes B&W IFEX

Dir: Vitaly Kanevski

In Russian with English subtitles

Awarded the Camera D'Or for Best First Film at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival, *FREEZE -- DIE -- COME TO LIFE* is Kanevski's frankly autobiographical tale that ranks as one of the most auspicious debuts in years. Set in the Soviet Far East just after WWII, the action unfolds in a small mining community where the border between the local gulag and the village proper seems impossible to detect. Two children learn to survive and to turn even the most unlikely situations into their own kinds of games. The starkly beautiful black and white images underscore the alternation between scenes of remarkable tenderness with moments of shocking treachery; perhaps no film has ever more powerfully depicted a world without a moral center.

"THE MOST SPECTACULAR CINEMATIC PRODUCT OF THE GLASNOST ERA." -- Dave Kehr,
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"EXHILARATING! Has the unmistakable no-holds-barred, full-speed-ahead exuberance of a film that is unmistakably autobiographical!"
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES